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ASIA-DEA

Sacramento Area Office
Sacramento 4, California
August 11, 1952

Air Mail

Commissioner, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to our telephone conversation of a few days ago relating to the welfare of the Indian community, located on the El Tujon Ranch in Kern County, which was damaged by the recent earthquake in that area.

We have checked with the California State Disaster Council and the local Red Cross Director and have assembled the information set forth below.

The El Tujon Indian community consisted of six adobe houses, plus several small frame buildings, located on private land for which the Indians pay a nominal rental. All of the adobe houses were seriously damaged by the earthquake, but one can probably be rehabilitated. There were no deaths nor personal injuries among the Indian occupants. At the time of the earthquake there were three families in the community, totaling 22 people. One single person, not a regular member of the community, was also present. Two families who make their homes in the community are employed as transient laborers and were not present at the time of the earthquake.

The welfare needs of these people have been taken care of in a similar manner to those of other victims of the earthquake. Kern County officials and the local Red Cross workers in Bakersfield have furnished tents for temporary occupancy by the families and have provided for other necessary emergency needs.

The Director of the County Museum, the local Red Cross Director and other interested persons and agencies are endeavoring to move this Indian community to a location where employment opportunities, schools, medical and other public services would be more accessible, and where building materials would be more available. All of the families, and, particularly those with school children, are anxious to move. However, there are two elderly men who wish to remain and it appears that there would be adequate housing remaining on the El Tujon Ranch to meet their needs.

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In view of the sympathetic attitude of the local people of Kern County, I believe that the problems of the Indians brought about by the earthquake will be taken care of satisfactorily.

There are about 15 public domain allotments in the earthquake area, some of which may be occupied. However, we have no knowledge of any emergency in connection therewith, and it can reasonably be assumed that any such emergency need has been met.

Sincerely yours,

Leonard M. Hall
Area Director

LMH:ab
cc: G. T. Nordstrom